

GSSO

The **Gender Studies Student Organization** is a group for students who are interested in gender and feminist politics. We are anti-racist, queer friendly, and open to all students! We organize panel discussions, workshops and other events that examine contemporary social issues through a gender-conscious lens. Our meetings are **Mondays from 3pm to 4pm** in the Women and Gender Studies House on the Portland campus (94 Bedford St). Contact Emily Harris for details: emily.r.harris@maine.edu.

Student Spotlight

Emma Wynne Hill | WGS Minor

Older Transgender Adults and Healthcare: A Qualitative Study

I am a Social Work student with a Women and Gender Studies minor. I am one of a handful of undergrad students at USM who were awarded the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program fellowship— a stipended fellowship that supports students in carrying out original research. Through in-depth interviews, I hope to uncover the medical narratives of older transgender adults. Those experiences, along with provider and policy maker competence around trans-inclusive care vitally shape this population's ability to access healthcare. Older transgender individuals have been largely ignored in both gender studies and gerontological research. I hope for this study to act primarily as a way to collect and disseminate their stories and concerns in their



For more information about how to get involved in the fellowship program, search for UROP on the USM website.

Women & Gender Studies

Fall 2015 Newsletter

Hello all,

The Women and Gender Studies Program is the longest-standing feminist studies program in Northern New England, and continues to be one of the most vibrant. I am honored to step into the position of Director this year, and grateful to have Meaghan LaSala join me as the Assistant to the Director. We are both excited about the opportunity to work with faculty from across the university, and with students committed to feminist, gender and sexuality studies. We look forward to continuing WGS's relationships with its excellent community partners.

This spring, WGS is offering courses ranging from "Introduction to Women and Gender Studies" to "Contemporary Feminist Theories," "and "Beauty Culture and the Modern Girl." We also offer many courses cross-listed with other departments, so declaring a double major or minor is easy. If you have any questions, please send us an email, call the office, or just drop in at 94 Bedford Street.

Sincerely,

Professor Lisa Walker
Director, Women and Gender Studies
lwalker@maine.edu
207-780-4311

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**Spring registration opens
on November 10th!**

94 Bedford Street, Portland Campus
M-F 8:00 – 4:30

(207) 780-4862 WGS@usm.maine.edu
<http://www.usm.maine.edu/WGS>

Facebook: USM Women and Gender Studies Program / YouTube: USMWGS

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJOR
AND THE MINOR

14 courses are required for the WGS major:

6 Core Courses

WGS 101 Intro to Women and Gender Studies
—or— EYE 109 Gender, Representation and Resistance

—plus—

WGS 201 Women, Knowledge and Power
WGS 380 Politics of Difference
WGS 390 Contemporary Feminist Theories
WGS 490 Capstone Experience
WGS 485 Internship or WGS 486 Thesis

2 WGS Topics Courses from among these
categories:

- Science, Technology and Health
- Culture and the Arts
- History and Resistance
- Gender and Institutions

6 Approved Electives Courses

A list is available at
www.usm.maine.edu/wgs/courses

6 courses are required for the WGS minor:

1 Core Course at the 100-level

WGS 101 Intro to Women and Gender Studies
—or— EYE 109 Gender, Representation and Resistance

1 Core Course at the 200-level

WGS 201 Women, Knowledge and Power

1 Core Course at the 300-level

WGS 380 Politics of Difference
or WGS 390 Contemporary Feminist Theories

3 Approved Elective Courses

A list is available at:
www.usm.maine.edu/wgs/courses

Fulfilling your Core
Courses with WGS

Entry Year Experience:

EYE 109 "Gender, Representation, and Resistance" Drawing on many disciplines, EYE 109 asks, what is gender and how is it represented historically and cross-culturally? Students consider the impact of mass media, education and political discourse on gender construction, and explore the liberating power of pleasure. Books assigned for this course may include: *Gender* by R.W. Connell, *Woman at Point Zero* by Nawal El Saadawi, and *Guerrilla Girls Bedside Companion to the History of Western Art* by the Guerrilla Girls

Socio-Cultural Analysis:

WGS 101 "Introduction to Women and Gender Studies" This course considers the economic, political, and social status of women and men and how ideas about femininity/masculinity and feminism are promoted through the media and other vehicles of culture. Books used by this course have included: *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls* by Mary Pipher, *Dude, You're a Fag* by C. J. Pascoe and *Feminist Frontiers* by Richardson, Taylor & Whittier.

Cultural Interpretations:

WGS 201 "Women, Knowledge and Power" examines the relationship between gender, assumptions about truth, and the ways both affect how we experience the world. Books from past sections of the course have included: *The Creation of Feminist Consciousness* by Gerda Lerner, *A Room of One's Own* by Virginia Woolf, *Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood, and *Black Feminist Thought* by Patricia Hill Collins.

Ethical Inquiry, Social Responsibility & Citizenship:

WGS 380 "Politics of Difference" explores some of the consequences of using such identity categories as race, nationality, religion, and sex to shape culture and gender relations within it. Books assigned for this course have included: *Gender Outlaw* by Kate Bornstein, *How Does it Feel to be a Problem* by Moustafa Bayoumi, *Hatreds* by Zillah Eisenstein and *Iran Awakening* by Shireen Ebadi.

Diversity:

WGS 201: Women, Knowledge and Power **AND**

WGS 390 "Contemporary Feminist Theories" introduces students to such feminist theoretical approaches as post-structuralism, Marxism, psychoanalysis, critical race theory, and post-colonialism. The focus of the course is the intimate relationships between feminist theories and feminist

Many WGS courses also satisfy the International requirement and a WGS minor satisfies the "Cluster" requirement.

WGS 345/ PHI 245: Africa, Social Justice and Exile
Portland T 4:10PM – 6:40PM

*FulfillsNon-Western Requirement
Prof. Kate Winninger

Why are people forced to leave Africa? Where do exiles go? What makes it difficult to return? This course examines exile and its effects on Gender, Class and Culture. Looking at personal narratives, original documents, short stories, visual culture and theories of social justice, we will consider moral issues in the post-colonial landscape of Africa.

WGS 355/ HTY 394: Women, Work and Resistance in Film
Portland TH 4:10PM – 6:40PM

Prof. Eileen Eagan

This course will use films, as well as readings, to examine the portrayal of women, work, and the history of working women's activism. Their resistance, as well as activism, has been in response to low pay, limited opportunities, and dangerous conditions in the workplace (which male workers often also experienced), but also was aimed at discrimination specific to women. This course uses films, and analysis of them, to help portray and analyze the role of female workers and the labor movement. We will consider the ways in which the forms of feature film and documentaries, and changes in those genres, have affected the portrayal of women and work and the way in which viewers interpret those portrayals. We will also briefly look at ways in which women workers have been presented in other cultural forms. 3 credits.

WGS 365/CRM 317: Gender and Crime
Portland T 4:10-6:40PM

Prof. Jim Messerschmidt

This course concentrates on gender and its relation to crime. It explores such issues as histories of gender inequality, the gendered character of criminological theory, and how gender is related to a variety of crimes such as rape, violence in the family, crimes by women, property crimes, and corporate crimes. 3 credits.

WST 365 / SWO 599/399: Sexual Harassment in Education and Work
Portland & Online TH 8:45AM – 11:25AM

Prof. Susan Fineran

This course examines sexual harassment and bullying occurring in the workplace and education from a mental health and sexual violence perspective. Students will acquire skills in assessing individuals who have experienced sexual harassment or bullying and utilize current practice interventions regarding post traumatic stress disorder, depression and other negative mental health outcomes. Intervention techniques will be identified for individuals and groups experiencing oppressive systems based on racial, gender, ethnic, sexual orientation, and class characteristics. The interplay of interpersonal, environmental and cultural forces that influence discriminatory behavior of individuals and companies will also be explored based on current theory and research. In addition to evaluating treatment options for sexual harassment or bullying victimization, students will also analyze and evaluate strategies for preventing sexual harassment and bullying in schools and the workplace. 3 credits.

WGS 390: Contemporary Feminist Theories
Portland T/TH 2:45 – 4:00PM

Prof. Susan Feiner

This course will introduce students to such feminist theoretical approaches as post-structuralism, Marxism, psychoanalysis, critical race theory, and post-colonialism. The focus of the course is the intimate relationships between feminist theories and feminist practices, locally and globally. 3 credits.

WST 470: Independent Study

Prof. Lisa Walker

This course provides junior and senior students with the opportunity to pursue a project independently, concentrate on a particular subject of concern, or conduct individually arranged reading or research studies under the advice and direction of a faculty member. Prerequisite: junior or senior standing and permission of the director. 1-4 credits.

WST 485: Internship
Portland W 4:10PM – 6:40PM

Prof. Jim Messerschmidt

The internship requires students to work closely with a group, business, or organization for one semester, and to conduct research on a related topic to be presented at the annual undergraduate research conference "Thinking Matters." Prerequisites: senior standing and Women & Gender Studies major or minor. 4-6 credits.

WST 486: Thesis
Portland

Prof. Lisa Walker

The thesis allows students to pursue guided research on a topic of their choosing. The minimum length for a thesis is 30 pages and includes a substantial bibliography. Thesis students should choose three readers, including an advisor whose interests and scholarship are in line with their own. Prerequisites: senior standing and Women & Gender Studies major or minor. Offered in the spring semester only. 4 credits.

WST 490: Capstone Experience
Portland M 1:15PM – 2:30PM

Prof. Lisa Walker

All students enrolled in either the internship or thesis option are required to participate in a capstone seminar. Students are expected to co-enroll in WST 490 and WST 485 or 486. 2 credits.

Women & Gender Studies

Spring 2016 Course Listings

Women & Gender Studies courses are now found in Mainestreet under WGS (not WST)!

WGS 101: Introduction of Women & Gender Studies

Portland	M/W 10:15AM-11:30AM	Prof. Lorraine Carroll
Gorham	T/TH 11:00-12:15PM	Prof. Sarah Lockridge
Portland	M 4:10PM – 6:40pm	Prof. Wendy Chapkis
Portland	T 4:10PM – 6:40PM	Prof. Wendy Chapkis
Web/Online		Prof. Kim Simmons

This course explores from a variety of perspectives the following inter-related themes and topics: the economic, political, and social status of women as a group and in discrete cultural contexts; the politics of representation, or how ideas about femininity and feminism are promoted throughout the media and other vehicles of culture; the construction of "consciousness," both through the media and through feminist tactics; women and collective action in the past, present, and future. Students are expected to practice their writing skills through formal essays. Satisfies core requirement for socio-cultural analysis. 3 credits

EYE 109 Gender, Representation, and Resistance

Portland	M/W 11:45AM – 1:00PM	Prof. Kate Winner
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Drawing on many disciplines, EYE 109 asks, what is gender and how is it represented historically and cross-culturally? Students consider the impact of mass media, education and political discourse on gender construction, and explore the liberating power of pleasure. 3 credits.

WGS 201: Women, Knowledge & Power

Portland	T/TH 1:15 – 2:30	Prof. Sarah Lockridge
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This course examines the ways in which the politics of knowledge production shape both global North and South cultures and their gender relations. It explores the role of educational institutions as they function to promote antifeminist culture, and the ways women have historically resisted, subverted, appropriated, and reformed traditional bodies of thought. Attention will be given to how competition, intimidation, and other factors have inhibited the formation of feminist communities of scholars/learners. Students will practice different modes of interpretation and writing, including personal narrative, socio-historical work, and contemporary cultural analysis. 3 credits.

WGS 245: Women, Arts, & Global Tourism

Web/Online	*Fulfills Non-Western Requirement
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This course explores the role of women who produce arts and crafts for the global tourist market. All over the world, women are improving their socio-economic status, investing in their families, and contributing to community development through their involvement in tourism. Tourism is perhaps the largest-scale movement of goods, services, and people in human history. We will learn about the historical and contemporary experiences of women from many different cultures such as: examples from Latin America, Eastern Europe, Africa, and Asia. Course content includes themes of cultural heritage, culture change, traditional versus tourist art, hosts versus guests, gender inequality, fair trade and community development. 3 credits.

WGS 335: Beauty Culture and the Modern Girl: Theorizing Femininity

Portland	M/W 2:45PM – 4:00PM	Prof. Lisa Walker
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This class explores the history of the beauty industry and the emergence of the "modern girl" as a public figure for modern femininity the 1920s and 1930s. It focuses on the modern girl's relationship to femininity as an idea and a practice, and on her consumption of cosmetics an exercise in both objectification and agency. It asks about how beauty culture is related to the racial, class, and sexual politics of the early twentieth century. 3 credits.

WST 345/ENG 379: Earlier Women Writers

Portland	M 4:10-6:40PM	*Fulfills Pre-1800 Requirement
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This course examines the work of several Early American women writers from the 17th through the early 19th centuries. These women wrote and, sometimes, published their writing within the complex contexts of colonialism, revolution, and nation building. Students will pursue several critical strands regarding women's writing, including an inquiry into conditions of female authorship, the relationship between private composition and publication, claims and counterclaims about gender-specific topics, intersections of sexuality, race formations, economic status, religious influences, and questions of subjectivity and citizenship. In addition to these broader considerations, this version of the course will devote a unit to the topic of education. The course includes a research project based on special collections and archival materials. 3 credits.

Alumni updates

Emily Paine '11 is a third year doctoral student in the Sociology department, a trainee of the Population Research Center, and a LGBTQ/Sexualities doctoral portfolio student at the University of Texas at Austin. At UT, she studies the interplay among sexual, racial, and gender identities, social institutions like the health care system, social movements and health. Emily has presented her work at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and the National Women's Studies Association. She is now completing her masters' thesis on racially and age diverse LGBTQ individuals' experiences of health care.



Jules Purnell graduated in August of 2015 with a BA in Women and Gender Studies and Sociology and a concentration in Deaf Studies. Since graduation, they accepted a position working with homeless youth at the Preble Street Teen Center. Having a sound perspective on how gender, race, class, ability, and other aspects of identity intersect and impact issues facing homeless populations has been invaluable in this new position. When not at work, they rehab their vintage camper and care for their elderly cats. They plan to take a cross-country trip in the coming year and will begin coursework for their MEd in Sexuality Studies at Widener University next fall.

Meaghan LaSala '15 graduated with a BA in Women and Gender Studies and a minor in Environmental Science. As a student, Meaghan helped organize the student response to budget cuts and program eliminations with the group Students for #USMfuture. She was also a leader with Divest UMaine, a group that succeeded in pressuring the UMaine system Board of Trustees to divest our endowment from coal companies. She currently serves as Chair of the Board for the Southern Maine Workers' Center, and continues to stay active in youth movements for climate justice. In August, she had the honor of returning to WGS as the Assistant to the Director, Lisa Walker.



Faculty Spotlight

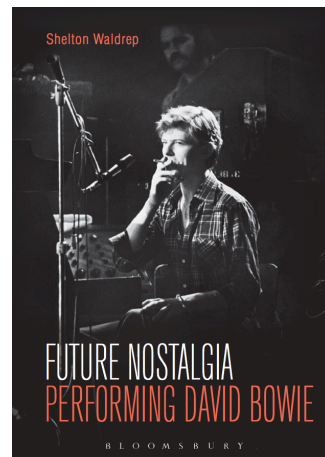
WGS faculty and affiliated scholars are leaders in their fields. Here is what some of them are up to:



Dr. Sarah Lockridge was commissioned by The International Criminal Court (ICC, The Hague, The Netherlands) to write a comprehensive report describing the crisis situation in the aftermath of the Northern Malian Conflict (2012 to 2013). The study was conducted in collaboration with a nationally recognized Malian human rights lawyer. It provides an analysis of postwar conditions, as well as suggestions for effective ways to reach the most vulnerable victims of the war, which includes Malian women, children, and former childhood soldiers. The ICC is using the findings to implement public outreach programs mostly in the realm of human rights advocacy.

Reza Jalali's play, *The Poets and the Assassin*, about women in Iran and Islam, was staged in University of Maine at Augusta on October 18 and at Unity of Greater Portland, in Windham, on October 30, 2015. Kati Vecsey from Bates College directed both shows.

Shelton Waldrep's book *Future Nostalgia: Performing David Bowie* was published in October. Although David Bowie has famously characterized himself as a "leper messiah," a more appropriate moniker might be "rock god": someone whose influence has crossed numerous sub-genres of popular and classical music and can at times seem ubiquitous. By looking at key moments in his career through several lenses-theories of sub-culture, gender/sexuality studies, theories of sound, post-colonial theory, and performance studies Waldrep examines Bowie's work in terms not only of his auditory output but his many reinterpretations of it via music videos, concert tours, television appearances, and occasional movie roles. *Future Nostalgia* looks at all aspects of Bowie's career in an attempt to trace Bowie's contribution to the performative paradigms that constitute contemporary rock music.



Jane Kuenz's book *Strip Cultures: Finding America in Las Vegas* was published in October. On the Las Vegas Strip, blockbuster casinos burst out of the desert, billboards promise "hot babes," actual hot babes proffer complimentary drinks, and a million happy slot machines ring day and night. It's loud and excessive, but, as the Project on Vegas demonstrates, the Strip is not a world apart. Combining written critique with more than one hundred photographs by Karen Klugman, *Strip Cultures* examines the politics of food and water, art and spectacle, entertainment and branding, body and sensory experience. In confronting the ordinary on America's most famous four-mile stretch of pavement, the authors reveal how the Strip concentrates and magnifies the basic truths and practices of American culture where consumerism is the stuff of life, digital surveillance annuls the right to privacy, and nature—all but destroyed—is refashioned as an element of decor.

Eve Raimon is giving a paper at the SLSA (Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts) Nov. 12-15 in Houston on "The Shifting Ground of African American Memorialization." Professor Raimon has also been asked to write a chapter for a Cambridge University Press series called African American Literature in Transition.

In December, **Libby Bischof**, Susan Danly, and Earle G. Shettlesworth Jr. published *Maine Photography: A History, 1840-2015*, in conjunction with the 2015 Maine Photo Project. One of the chapters focuses on 19th century Maine women photographers.

A mobile application, the **Portland Women's History Trail** uses photos and text to highlight the history of women in Portland in work, education, religion, politics, and culture over two centuries. The trail is based on historical research conducted by **Professor Eileen Eagan** and USM students. The app offers maps with text and photos of sites showcasing the broad range of roles and work of women in the social, cultural and economic life of Portland. (visit the website: <http://pmwht.org>).



In June, **Lorrayne Carroll** presented a joint conference paper with Dr. Conor Quinn on the Penobscot text, LIFE AND TRADITIONS OF THE RED MAN. For EARLY AMERICAN LITERATURE, she is reviewing THE FEMALE AMERICAN (2nd. Ed.) and will teach it this spring in Earlier Women Writers. Professor Carroll continues to work with several community partners on early American topics, WGS classes, and literacy initiatives.

Maine Chance Farm: Documenting Maine's Beauty Culture.

In 1934, Elizabeth Arden established America's first destination beauty spa—Maine Chance Farm—in Mt. Vernon, Maine (1934 -1970). Drawing on the scholarship of spa culture and the beauty industry from early to mid twentieth century, **Professor Lisa Walker** and USM students examine reducing diets and vintage beauty technologies such as passive exercise machines, and document rural Mainers' experiences working in leisure and tourism industries by collecting and digitizing, in searchable format, oral histories of Maine residents who worked at Maine Chance.

Women Presidents of Colleges and Universities in the Northeastern U.S.: a project by Elizabeth Turesky, Joyce Gibson, and Carol Nemeroff.

Women have historically been underrepresented in the highest levels of academic leadership, particularly as presidents of colleges and Universities. Our project aims to understand the experiences of 22 women in the Northeast who have achieved these influential positions, by examining their leadership trajectories and the psychological, sociocultural, and organizational factors that have been influential, including successive waves of feminism over the decades through which their careers have unfolded. The book will provide a basic "road map" for aspiring women leaders and their mentors, and targeted trainings will be developed based on the themes and characteristics that emerge as most important.